

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 4-14 with the following amended paragraph:

At block 204, the process traces the Layer 2 path between the source device and destination device. As a result, in block 204, Layer 2 path information is created and stored. A method of Layer 2 path tracing is disclosed in co-pending application Ser No. 09/524,725, entitled “A METHOD OF DETERMINING A DATA LINK PATH IN A MANAGED NETWORK”, filed March 14, 2000, and naming as inventor Mehryar Garakani, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. Another method of Layer 2 path determination is disclosed in co-pending application Ser. No. ~~NUMBER~~ 09/585,709, filed May 31, 2000, entitled “A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING A LAYER 2 PATH IN A SWITCHED NETWORK”, and naming as inventors Clare Chu, and Stephen Schleimer, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 15-22 with the following amended paragraph:

In subsequent steps of FIG. 2A, the process assumes that a flow exists between the source and destination devices, as indicated by block 206. At block 208, for each route processor that is in the Layer 3 path and for which the Layer 2 path leading to and emanating from the route processor is known, the process identifies all the switches that have been configured as switch engines in the Layer 2 path. Such an identification is possible when the network discovery (network management) has identified all the switches in the Layer 2 path to support a management information base (“MIB”) or an equivalent of the MIB. MIBs are further described herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 19, line 15 through page 20, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

At block 260, the process determines whether the source device is remote. If the process determines that the source device is not remote, then the process causes the source device to send packets to the destination device, as indicated by block 262. Processing concludes at block 270. If the process determines that the source device is remote, then the process may choose one of two alternatives. According to one alternative, at block 268, the process causes packets to be sent to the destination device from any route processor that is upstream in the Layer 2 path from the given route engine for which a multilayer switching path is being determined. According to the another other alternative, at block 264 the process determines whether packets that are sent from a network management station to the destination device will traverse a relevant path. The relevant path is the path that traverses the particular switch engine that would have multilayer switched the router associated with the particular switch engine if there was an actual flow emanating from the source device and destined for the destination device. If the process determines that packets that are sent from a network management station to the destination device will traverse the relevant path, then at block 266 the process causes the network management station to send packets to the destination device. Otherwise, control passes to block 268.